

Closer to Nature

Velasco & Hu

Velasco & Hu already worked from home before the pandemic. Since the start, they have focused on projects relating to flower blooming, bringing them “Closer to Nature” than ever before. This experience changed their relation with nature and opened up their sight on flower art.

The couple also made a series of “Pills” which are short 1-minute videos, which they call “Visual Poems.” In 2020, they made 6 pills in total.

**Closer to Nature – 30 days challenge /
Beauty and the Dust**



30 days challenge



30 days challenge



Beauty and the Dust



Beauty and the Dust



Beauty and the Dust



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Beauty and the Dust

Pills

Two short films Velasco & Hu believe reflect their lives and thoughts during the quarantine and the post-quarantine:

QUARANTINE. (visual poem #3)

This is a mini short film Velasco & Hu made during the lockdown. The intention was simply to do a visual diary but it has somehow turned into a visual proof of the common emotions they all shared back then.

LA NONNA INVISIBILE

Velasco & Hu made this short film at the end of 2020. It presents an invisible grandma by representing her culinary heritage through a visual feast consisting of beautiful still life pictures in motion. Through the story, they want to pay tribute to many grandmas who lost their lives, silently, during the pandemic, and keep them close in their memories.

Biography

Velasco & Hu is a creative couple formed by Carlos VELASCO from Madrid and Kate HU from Taipei. They teamed up to create transcendent, story-telling, artistic and cinematic photographs and films across Europe and Asia. They are commercial photographers by day and fine art photographers by night, specializing in still life photography.

Interview

The names would be abbreviated as “Isabel” (Isabel DIERINGER) and “Velasco & Hu” (Carlos VELASCO and Kate HU).

(Interviewees “Isabel” and “Velasco & Hu”)

Isabel: How did you organise your work and life during the pandemic?

Velasco & Hu: As our home is our workspace (apart from the shootings in rented studios), we organized our work and life in the same way as before, trying to get a balance in between.

Isabel Interviewer: How did you manage to balance work and life during the pandemic?

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Isabel: What is different from before the pandemic?

Velasco & Hu: We used to work from home and we used to shoot still life photos at home, so it hasn't been so different. But indeed, we stayed more time at home during the pandemic so we've tried to look for more projects to do at home.

Isabel Interviewer: How did you manage to balance work and life during the pandemic?

Velasco & Hu Interviewer: How did you manage to balance work and life during the pandemic? Interviewer: How did you manage to balance work and life during the pandemic?

Isabel: What is the biggest change you have been through or found? In other words, what is your Covid-pivot?

Velasco & Hu: We were very fortunate to be commissioned to work on a series of photographs and videos about a flower blooming during the pandemic. We spent lots of time studying the flowers before the shooting, by reading books, buying flowers to observe, testing flower arrangement and time-lapse at home. This experience changed our relation with nature and opened up our sight on flower art. We feel so much connected with nature and the changes of seasons, and all this has given

us more inspiration throughout the pandemic.

Isabel

Velasco & Hu

Isabel: What is your most proud creation since the pandemic started?

Velasco & Hu: We made a series of “Pills” which are very short, around 1-minute videos, which we call “Visual Poems”. In 2020 we made 6 pills in total.

Isabel

Velasco & Hu“”1“”2020
6“”

Isabel: When did you start this project/artwork?

Velasco & Hu: It actually started before the pandemic back in the beginning of 2020, but we continued the project during the pandemic with lots of footage shot at home.

Isabel /

Velasco & Hu 2020

Isabel: What inspired you to embark on this project/start creating this artwork?

Velasco & Hu: We wanted to visualize our emotions, feelings, and tangled sentiments.

Isabel ¿Cómo se relaciona el arte con la vida cotidiana?

Velasco & Hu El arte es una forma de expresión que nos ayuda a entender el mundo y a nosotros mismos.

Isabel: What does this artwork mean to you?

Velasco & Hu: An inner picture of our emotions, an encounter of lost feelings, a visual diary of moments, a journey of artistic search.

Isabel ¿Qué mensaje quieres transmitir?

Velasco & Hu Queremos transmitir la importancia de la creatividad y la expresión artística en tiempos difíciles.

Isabel: Has the pandemic had an impact on your work/work plan? (Was there any change in your thinking focus?)

Velasco & Hu: Yes, unfortunately, we become more hesitant in planning projects that will involve many people, and we would have to think of a plan B to execute our projects in a smaller scale. That's also why we made those "pills" as the footages could be made at home, on the street, during our trips without involving others.

Isabel ¿Cómo ves el futuro del arte en estos tiempos?

Velasco & Hu El futuro del arte es incierto, pero creemos que seguirá siendo una forma de expresión importante. Debemos adaptarnos a los cambios y encontrar nuevas formas de crear y compartir nuestro trabajo.

Isabel: If this applies, is there any funding for freelancers or artists in your city or in your country?

Velasco & Hu: There are subsidies and loans provided by the government in general.

Isabel ¿Qué consejos tienes para los artistas que quieren seguir creando?

Velasco & Hu

Isabel: Have your feelings about art now changed from your first encounters with it, or rather before the pandemic? If so, how?

Velasco & Hu: Our feelings about art are constantly changing, but with the pandemic, we now look for connections with nature and inner emotions more than ever.

Isabel

Velasco & Hu

Isabel: Do you think the arts will mostly remain/move online after the pandemic?

Velasco & Hu: Not at all, we think most of the arts still need to be appreciated “in person”.

Isabel

Velasco & Hu

Isabel: How do you see the relationship between technology and art?

Velasco & Hu: Positive, as technology serves as a good tool to create art and a good platform to exhibit art.

Isabel

Velasco & Hu

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